## **CLAIMS**:

- A method, comprising:
   creating a connection between a pedestal and a base;
   monitoring said connection; and
   generating an alarm signal if said connection is broken.
- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  sending said alarm signal to an alarm system;
  receiving said alarm signal at said alarm system; and
  generating an alarm in response to said alarm signal.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said connection is a ground connection.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said generating comprises: removing said pedestal from said base; and breaking said connection in accordance with said removal.
- 5. The method of claim 2, wherein said alarm comprises at least one of an audio alarm, visual alarm and silent alarm to represent unauthorized removal of said pedestal from said base.
- 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising: detecting that said connection has been created; sending a cease alarm signal to said alarm unit.
- An apparatus, comprising:
  a pedestal;
  a base to couple to said pedestal; and
  an alarm subsystem to generate an alarm signal if said pedestal is removed from said

base.

C4-1177

- 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said alarm subsystem comprises:
  a circuit to create a connection between said pedestal and said base; and
  a monitor to monitor said connection and generate said alarm signal if said connection
  is broken.
- 9. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an alarm system to communicate with said alarm subsystem, said alarm system to receive said alarm signal and generate and alarm in response to said alarm signal.
- 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said pedestal further comprises an antenna to communicate radio-frequency signals to create an interrogation zone.
- 11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said base further comprises a reader system to communicate interrogation signals to an antenna.
- 12. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a security tag to communicate with a radio-frequency reader system.
- 13. An article comprising:

5

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in creating a connection between a pedestal and a base, monitoring said connection, and generating an alarm signal if said connection is broken.

- 14. The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in sending said alarm signal to an alarm generator, receiving said alarm signal at said alarm generator, and generating an alarm in response to said alarm signal.
- 15. The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said generating by removing said pedestal from said base, and breaking said connection in accordance with said removal.

C4-1177 10